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Control: 5827
Rec'd: January 13, 1955
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FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 459, January 13, 9 p.m.

Bureau of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
JAN 1 4 1955
Department of State

Taipei 459

PRIORITY.

As result air raids reported Embassy telegram 448, January 10 CAF has requested US concurrence in bombing shipping and anti-aircraft positions (only) in mainland ports.

General Chase concurs and has referred request to CINCPAC.

Believe January 10 raids apparently directed primarily against shipping have demonstrated to GRC vulnerability Tachen to interdiction by air. If island were isolated this fashion and by seizure more and more surrounding Islets, it would eventually fall to Communists like ripe apple. This would be contrary our interests which would seem require that if island falls it be only as result military assault and after strong defense, otherwise why have we consistently encouraged GRC to defend off-shore islands.

Yet obviously Chinese airforce from Taiwan cannot provide adequate air defense for Tachen, nor has it capability damaging Communist airfields northwest of Tachen to degree warranting heavy losses which would be incurred.

These matters will be discussed with General Bolte Deputy Chief Staff Army tomorrow although not strictly within his province. Meanwhile Embassy considers that GRC must react promptly and vigorously to these attacks, and that most acceptable method bombing probably that proposed by CAF and concurred in by General Chase.

RANKIN

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